missile still needs to be proved for all its capabilities. These technologies will be useful in futuristic missile projects.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Indo-Russian agreement for acquisition of defence products

2173. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has signed a protocol agreement with Russia for acquiring defence products during his visit there in January last;

(b) if so, the details of the deals firmed up with their values, delivery schedules, terms of payment etc.; and

(c) how these products compare with US, Korean and French products?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Raksha Mantri visited Russia to co-chair the Third Meeting of India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission held in Moscow from 15-17 January 2003. During this visit no 'protocol agreement' was signed with Russia for acquisition of defence products. However, Raksha Mantri signed a Protocol of the Inter-Governmental Commission on issues relating to the bilateral Military Technical Cooperation between India and Russia.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Defence production unit in Gujarat

2174. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received from Government of Gujarat for starting defence production unit in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, what is the response thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present there is no decision to set up a new defence production unit.

Coal Scam

2175. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the supply of coal meant for soldiers on the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir has been siphoned for the last two years by the private coal traders with the connivance of the local police and the army personnel in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any independent enquiry has been made into this coal scam; and

(d) if so, the details of arrests made so far and further action taken against those found involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) On 11.2.2003 a news-item was published in The Indian Express based on the information from civil police, who had found some coal dumps outside the kilns in Kupwara. It was assumed by the police that the coal was meant for the Army. The coal was being carried in civil vehicles and not in Army vehicles. The Army has asked the civil police to provide the vehicle registration numbers to enable the Army to check if the vehicles were carrying coal for the Army. In case any involvement of Army is established, necessary action to hold Court of Inquiry and to punish the guilty will be taken.

Procurement of aircrafts for the Movement of VIPs

2176. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the bid of Embraer of Brazil for the supply of 5 small aircrafts for the movement of VIPs;